

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended): ~~A network level admission control apparatus~~An admission control system for a set of networks comprising a first network, using a protocol at a sub-IP level, comprising border routers interconnected by links associated with resources of known characteristics and managed by a first network management system, and a second network connected to said first network and of a different type from said first network, the ~~apparatus~~ system comprising:

a first network level admission control apparatus including control means fed by said first network management system with data representative of said links between border routers of said first network and of said resources, said data comprising restoration data which define restoration links and associated resources; and

a second network level admission control apparatus connected to a second network management system managing said second network,

wherein said control means

receives a request to transfer a call via said first network, said call being associated with at least one service criterion and designating ~~a second network connected to said first network and of a different type than said first network~~said second network, said at least one service criterion comprising ability to protect/restore a link;

determines, using said data, whether available resources exist that satisfy said at least one service criterion; and

if said resources exist, forwards said call transfer request to said second network level admission control apparatus~~a second control apparatus connected to a second network management system managing said second network;~~

wherein said second network level admission control apparatus verifies whether available network resources exist in association with links previously established by the second network management system within said second network so as to satisfy said at least one service criterion.

wherein said resources are booked only if said resources are available so as to satisfy said at least one service criterion in each of the networks servicing said call.

2. (currently amended): The ~~apparatus~~system according to claim 1, wherein said at least one service criterion further comprises a criterion~~is selected from a group comprising at least quality of service, ability to protect/restore a link, and security.~~

3. (currently amended): The ~~apparatus~~system according to claim 2, wherein said quality of service is defined by at least one parameter selected from a group comprising at least passband, delay, losses, and jitter.

4. (currently amended): The ~~apparatus~~system according to claim 1, wherein some of said data specifies a mode of management for a link by said first network management system.

5. (currently amended): The ~~apparatus~~system according to claim 4, wherein said

modes are selected from a group comprising at least VPN, optical VPN, and IPSec.

6. (canceled).

7. (currently amended): The ~~apparatus~~system according to claim 1, comprising:
memory, in which said control means stores received data in the form of a connectivity matrix between border routers of the first network.

8. (currently amended): The ~~apparatus~~system according to claim 1, wherein said control means are coupled to third control apparatus connected to a third network management system managing a third network connected to the first network and of a different type, and from which said call transfer request comes.

9. (currently amended): The ~~apparatus~~system according to any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein at least one of said second and third networks uses an IP level protocol.

10. (currently amended): The ~~apparatus~~system according to any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein at least one of said second and third networks uses a protocol at sub-IP level.

11. (canceled).

12. (currently amended): A method for network level admission control, comprising:
employing the ~~apparatus~~system according to claim 1 in sub-IP networks selected from a

group comprising space-division switching networks, WDM networks, TDM networks, and GMPLS networks.